
Mayor's Lesbian/Gay Task Force

January 13, 1989

Dear Friends:

The Mayor's Lesbian/Gay Task Force has formally proposed to Mayor Royer that the City expand its definition of family and recognize domestic partners for the purposes of sick and bereavement leave. In addition, the Task Force proposal would allow City employees to take sick leave when it is medically necessary to care for their spouse, domestic partner, or a dependent relative (a relative for whom the employee is legally or financially responsible, or who resides with the employee).

A domestic partnership would consist of any two persons who reside together and share the common necessities of life, are at least 18 years of age and mentally competent to enter into a contract, are not married to anyone, and are responsible for each other's common welfare. Both the employee and the domestic partner would sign an affidavit attesting to these criteria.

This proposal recognizes the great changes in family structure that have taken place. No longer is the traditional, two-parent, one-wage-earner family the norm in this country. There are more unmarried couples living together; there are more extended families, with adult children caring for their aging parents; there are single parents who have joined together and formed families based, in part, on economic necessity. All of these types of families would benefit from our proposal.

The Mayor has endorsed this proposal and is sending an ordinance to the City Council for their consideration. We need your support to make sure this important issue passes. You are invited to attend a meeting to discuss strategies for lobbying this measure through the City Council. The meeting will be on Tuesday, January 24, at 7:00 p.m., second floor conference room of the Arctic Building, 700 Third Avenue (enter through the Third Avenue entrance).

At the meeting you will receive a briefing paper describing this proposal in more depth. If you need more information prior to this meeting, contact Shelly Cohen at 682-5680, or Nancy Welton, at the Office for Women's Rights, 684-0390.

Sincerely,

Shelly Cohen
Co-Chair

SC:dp